

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 140149
ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 COME-00 NSAE-00
USIA-06 TRSE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ITP/EWT - WAROOT:JAS
APPROVED BY EB/ITP/EWT - WAROOT
EUR/NE - EDJEREJIAN
DEFENSE - DSCHROEDER
COMMERCE - RMEYER (SUBS)
RPE

-----162351Z 102686 /65

P 162049Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140149

USOECN, EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJECT: BELGIAN MACHINE TOOLS TO ROMANIA

REF: PARIS 17460 (NOTAL)

1. BELGIAN DEL AT COCOM, W.J. STEVENS, ANNOUNCED AT
JUNE 14 MEETING BELGIAN INTENTION UNILATERALLY TO REMOVE
LARGE MACHINE TOOLS FROM EMBARGO EFFECTIVE JUNE 24 FOR
SIX MONTHS BECAUSE OF NECESSITY TO MAKE SALES TO ROMANIA
IN ORDER FOR BELGIAN MACHINE TOOL INDUSTRY TO SURVIVE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 140149

US, UK AND GERMANY ARE STILL RESERVING ON BELGIAN PROPOSAL
THAT COCOM AGREE TO RELAX EMBARGO CUTOFFS TO PERMIT SUCH
SALES.

2. BELGIAN PROPOSAL TO REVISE COCOM CRITERIA TO REQUIRE
UNANIMITY TO RETAIN ANY ITEM ON LIST WHICH HAS BEEN IN
COMMERCIAL USE IN WEST FOR FIVE YEARS NOT SCHEDULED FOR

DEBATE UNTIL OCTOBER (UNDER PRESENT RULES UNANIMITY IS REQUIRED TO DELETE OR TO REVISE AN ITEM ON THE LIST AND US OFTEN VETOES SUCH PROPOSALS).

3. US IS ONLY COUNTRY STILL IN RESERVE ON PENDING ITALIAN CASE TO SELL 8 LARGE MACHINE TOOLS TO ROMANIA. ITALIANS HAVE ALSO CLAIMED THAT SUCH SALES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC HEALTH OF THEIR MACHINE TOOL INDUSTRY BUT HAVE NOT THREATENED UNILATERAL ACTION. ITALIAN CASE INVOLVES UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF THESE TOOLS. ONE OF REASONS FOR CONTINUED US RESERVE IS SKEPTICISM THAT ROMANIA WOULD HAVE PRODUCTIVE CIVIL USE FOR SO MANY.

4. BEGIN FYI: PREVIOUS BELGIAN DEL TO COCOM, EMILE MASSA, NOW ECONOMIC COUNSELLOR IN WASHINGTON, CALLED ON DEPT JUNE 15 ON OTHER MATTERS. ON BEING INFORMED OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AT COCOM, HE DESCRIBED BELGIAN ACTION AS EXTRAORDINARY DEPARTURE FROM CUSTOMARY CAUTIOUS BELGIAN DIPLOMACY, ALTHOUGH HE ASSUMED BRUSSELS MUST HAVE AUTHORIZED IT. END FYI

5. DURING JUNE 2 US-UK BILATERALS ON COCOM CRITERIA BRITISH STATED OPINION BELGIAN OBSOLESCENCE CRITERION PROPOSAL WOULD NOT RECEIVE SUPPORT BECAUSE US AND UK WERE CLOSE TO REACHING AGREEMENT ON LESS RADICAL CHANGES IN CRITERIA. BRITISH STRONGLY OPPOSED BELGIAN PROPOSAL TO TURN RULE OF UNANIMITY ON ITS HEAD.

6. CURRENT COCOM EXCEPTIONS PROCEDURES PROVIDE THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 140149

DOMESTIC ECONOMIC FACTORS WHICH EXPORTING GOVERNMENT FEELS ARE SO SERIOUS AS TO OVER-RIDE SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS MAY BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN EXCEPTIONS CASES.

7. REQUEST EMB BRUSSELS DISCUSS MATTER WITH GOB SOONEST TO:

A- DEPLORE RADICAL ACTION WHICH WOULD ERODE EFFECTIVENESS OF COCOM IN PROTECTING WESTERN SECURITY INTERESTS;

B- SUGGEST THAT FAR LESS DISRUPTIVE COURSE OF ACTION IF BELGIUM FEELS IT MUST SELL A FEW EMBARGOED TOOLS TO ROMANIA WOULD BE TO SUBMIT EXCEPTION CASE; AND

C- ASK WHAT EVIDENCE BELGIUM HAS THAT ROMANIA WOULD USE THE TOOLS BELGIUM WISHES TO SELL FOR CIVIL PURPOSES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE LARGE NUMBER OF TOOLS THE ROMANIANS HAVE ALREADY ORDERED FROM ITALY.

8. REQUEST EMB BONN AND EMB LONDON INFORM GERMAN AND BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTRIES OF APPROACH US IS MAKING TO GOB PER PARA 7 AND SUGGEST THAT GERMANS AND BRITISH MAINTAIN THEIR RESERVES ON BELGIAN PROPOSAL TO RELAX EMBARGO AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER JUNE 24 SO AS NOT TO APPEAR TO BE GIVING IN TO THREAT OF UNILATERAL ACTION.

9. REQUEST EMB BUCHAREST REPORT ANY INFORMATION IT CAN OBTAIN ON ROMANIAN NEEDS FOR LARGE WESTERN MACHINE TOOLS. IT IS PUZZLING WHY ROMANIA WOULD SPEND HARD FOREIGN CURRENCY FOR WESTERN TOOLS SINCE GZECHS, GDR AND SOVIETS PRODUCE LARGE MACHINE TOOLS. ITALIANS STATE THAT MACHINE TOOLS THEY ARE PROVIDING ARE REQUIRED FOR THE TECHNICAL MODERNIZATION PROGRAM OF THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR FORESEEN BY THE FIVE-YEAR ROMANIAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

10. REQUEST USDEL AT COCOM INFORM BELGIAN DEL OF APPROACH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 140149

US IS MAKING IN BRUSSELS PER PARA 7 (A), (B) AND (C).
CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS, TOOLS, PROPOSALS (BID), TRADE CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE140149
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WAROOT:JAS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770215-1061
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770648/aaaabqog.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b1ba7c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PARIS 17460
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2121597
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIAN MACHINE TOOLS TO ROMANIA
TAGS: ESTC, COCOM
To: BONN BRUSSELS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b1ba7c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009